

From: "CAMUS" <info@camus.org>
To: "askterri@yahoo.com" <askterri@yahoo.com>
Subject: CAMUS Flash -July 2006
Date: Wed, 26 Jul 2006 12:58:55 -0700

Computer Applications for Manufacturing Users Society

FLASH

Inside:

- **2006 CAMUS Conference – August 23-25, 2006**
- **Sponsor Information**
- **Business Partner Presentations**
- **Annual Meeting**
- **A Letter from the President**

CAMUS Flash - July 2006

2006 CAMUS Conference – August 23-25, 2006

CAMUS '06: Homesteading AND Migrating

This issue is dedicated to **all of you who do NOT plan to attend** the annual CAMUS Conference. If you are not going to read all of this, please at least skim the first paragraph and bold type and headers.

As Kevin Costner said in the movie Field of Dreams, “If we build it they will come.” The CAMUS volunteers who have been working long hours (in their “spare” time) preparing the CAMUS '06 Conference in San Francisco (August 23-25) have built a

remarkable opportunity for our membership to learn and grow and we are taking the time to tell you about it, but if you do not come, we probably won't take the time to do it again next year.

To the chagrin of some, CAMUS Associate Board Member Terry Floyd has been calling this the “**First Annual Last MK/MANMAN Conference**” because he says everyone knows the end is nearing. Last year he says he was convinced that, unlike the bankrupt HP Interex Users Group, CAMUS is on sound financial footing thanks to the volunteers who ran this group for the last 10 years. Every current and former CAMUS Board member will agree: there has been no extravagant waste within this organization; it has truly been in existence just to help the users.

The CAMUS group can certainly afford to carry on for several more years. But what's the point if you, the users of MANMAN and MK, are not interested in taking the time to attend your annual conference? If attendance is as low this year as it was last year in Chicago, there is just no reason to continue. We've built it. You can come. Or kiss it goodbye.

Let's **review the schedule for this conference** and highlight the ways that CAMUS is going above and beyond the bare essentials of a conference. An overview of our value proposition: Optional (free-of-charge) MK and MANMAN Training Day, Keynote address by Marty Browne (Father of MANMAN) during Wednesday evening's kickoff reception, SSA Global Update by Sue Peyton, a dozen presentations on Homesteading AND Migration by actual practitioners in 2 tracks on Thursday and Friday mornings, an Exhibits area with a dozen booths (up from only four last year), an entire afternoon (moved to Thursday) of focused Business Partner Presentations which are flat-out sales pitches and demos by companies interested in convincing you to migrate from MK or MANMAN to their ERP products, and last but not least an exciting yet inexpensive venue in San Francisco. Our tag line is “Coming Home,” by which we mean back to the birthplace of ASK.

MK and MANMAN Training Day: On Wednesday, August 23, CAMUS is sponsoring a no-charge MK and MANMAN Training Day. If you live near San Francisco, you can bring as many people as you want to these training sessions and not pay a dime (but please go to www.camus.org and fill out the “Free Training Day Only Registration Form” so we'll know how many to expect for the free lunch). Of course, we hope these attendees will stay for the rest of the Conference, but if not, then okay. It's the CAMUS motto, “Users Helping Users,” in its purest form. The very best teachers in the MK and MANMAN fields have volunteered their time to help the entire community: David Cervelli, Alice West, Chris Jones, Terri Glendon Lanza, Tim Peer, Susan Kiesel, Terry Floyd, Robert Bruce, and others will be on hand. Three simultaneous topic-specific sessions are scheduled throughout the day on Wednesday and 4 or 5 of these experts will be in another room to go one-on-one or teach 2 or 3 people any particular topic they wish to dive into. If there's a session on Financials you don't want to attend, go to the “wildcard” room and talk in depth about almost any feature of MANMAN you can name. MK users will have an all-day Training Track with David Cervelli of Strategic

Systems Group, Inc., so please bring those new users. Even if you know you'll be leaving MK or MANMAN in the next year or two, your company will surely benefit by having users who understand your current system; if nothing else, they'll help you do a better job of migration when that time comes. If they stay for the Conference, they'll learn a lot about the replacement software selection process.

“Non-Sales Pitch” Presentation Tracks: CAMUS has always had a policy of “no sales pitches” in the sessions. Vendors wishing to do a sales pitch pay for that opportunity and have an afternoon just for that purpose (see BPPs below). The presentation topics at the CAMUS Conference are meant to be educational and are best done by the actual people using the software, bringing the story of their own company's experiences. Check out www.camus.org for the session details.

Marty Browne's Keynote and Exhibitor's Reception: Martin R. Browne was Sandra Kurtzig's first employee when she started ASK Computer Systems over 30 years ago. As always, we open the CAMUS Conference with a reception (light snacks and drink tickets plus cash bar) in the Exhibit area. After your chance to meet the vendors and see which ones you want to spend some time with throughout the Conference, Marty will speak to us about how it all came about, lo those many years ago. If you've seen Marty speak, you know the relaxed atmosphere of this venue will probably only contribute to his candor. We hope that many former ASK employees still in the Bay Area will show up for this conference-opening event, so come out to see friends and remember the good old days when over 1500 people attended our conferences.

Infor/SSA Update: During breakfast on Thursday Sue Peyton, of Infor/SSA, will address our attendees and answer questions about the current organization and product strategy of Infor/SSA. Sue will also talk about product migration solutions and current migration considerations. This alone is worth the price of admission.

Register, Book Room, View Schedule: All this can be done by visiting www.camus.org. The schedule is being updated on a weekly basis, so be sure to keep checking back.

Sponsor Information

Exhibitors: Not only do we have more than just a handful of booths for the first time in several years, most of these Business Partners have sponsored parts of the event through advertising in the Conference program and/or new CAMUS membership. This is a relatively small conference, so expect table top displays, not extravagant exhibits with a dozen employees “manning the booth.” And since most people are coming to the conference for presentations, don't expect the Exhibit area to be teeming with activity during the sessions. Expect the exhibitors to attend the sessions along with you! In this informal atmosphere, if you want to talk to a vendor, just schedule a time that fits your needs to make sure someone will actually be in their booth. Like last year, it's the most relaxed setting you'll see at any conference like this. Here's the current list of exhibitors and sponsors:

IFS (Industrial and Financial Systems)	Oracle
QAD Inc.	Aware Consulting
Microsoft Business Solutions	TAG Business Consulting, Ltd.
Pivotal Solutions	Centric Consulting
the Support Group, inc. (tSGi)	Systech
Client Systems	Entsgo, Inc.
Genisys Corporation	Avanade
M.B. Foster Associates	
The Partner Leveraged Affiliate Network (The PLAN)	
Infor/SSA	
HP	

Business Partner Presentations

Business Partner Presentations: Vendors must pay CAMUS for the opportunity to do a sales pitch to our attendees and we hope to fulfill their wishes by having a good turnout. Without them there would be no conference. We had originally intended to do these sessions on Friday afternoon but several of the Business Partners pointed out the obvious: some people are going to leave at noon on Friday. So we've moved these sessions to Thursday afternoon, right in the middle of the conference. Most of these major ERP vendors will co-present with an actual customer who has already migrated from MK or MANMAN to their products. Our theme of supporting both Homesteading AND Migrating is heavy on the latter for only one reason: fewer speeches on Homesteading were submitted. So, the interest seems to be in the Migration area and we have a great lineup: Oracle, IFS, QAD, Infor/SSA and Microsoft and probably one or two more in two separate hour and forty-five minute sessions. That's three at a time, so you'll have to either decide which two you will attend or bring more than one person from your company. Of course, we are hoping for the latter decision.

An Inexpensive Opportunity to Network with peers and industry insiders: There's one big reason CAMUS can produce an extensive show and charge so little: the Business Partners who are sponsoring so much of the Conference: the return of the Beer Mug (thanks to Pivotal Solutions), Breakfast (Microsoft Business Solutions), Training Day lunch (M.B. Foster Associates), Event Night/Gold Sponsorship (IFS), Name Badges (the

Support Group, inc.), Lunch (QAD), Breaks (Oracle) and Welcome Reception (TAG Consulting). Other sponsorships are pending. Pay attention to the ads in the program to see which vendors are supporting CAMUS.

Event Night: It's so unbelievable you'll have to follow this link to believe it: <http://love.zinzanni.org> then click on "Experience Teatro ZinZanni" under the heading "See and Hear Teatro ZinZanni". Event night is sponsored by IFS, one of our exhibitors who stepped up to pay for this event for all attendees (even a few of their competitors).

THE UGLY TRUTH:

A total of 50 people attended last year's conference in Chicago . As of today, there are fewer paid registrants for this conference than there are volunteers who have given their time to produce it. There are about 30 people donating their time to make this event the best that it can possibly be. Believe it or not, these volunteers' time is as precious to them as your time is to you. If you cannot come, send somebody else from your company.

THE DESPERATE PLEA:

Are we desperate? Yes. If attendance is low, this really is the last MK/MANMAN Conference. Why? Because the volunteers are going to be too frustrated to do this again. What's the point? We work so hard and few people care. It will be the last time we all get together to discuss only MK and MANMAN and then CAMUS will end. Even if you do not care if there is ever another national meeting, believe that this really is the last opportunity to get together and have a "Big Time" Conference. This is it; comprende?

Annual Meeting

Official Membership Announcement

CAMUS will be holding its Annual Meeting at the conference. Members will have a chance to meet the new Board, get an update on the conference, hear reports on the state of the association, CAMUS' financial standing and membership activities. All members are invited to attend.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 23, 2006 from 12:20 - 1:20 pm.

A Letter from the President

Message from Mike Anderson, CAMUS Volunteer and President

Our annual conference is coming up in August and I want to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the expanded offerings.

We're starting the conference with Training Day on Wednesday. This will be a series of morning and afternoon lectures on the use of MANMAN and MK as well as an ad-hoc "ASK the Doctor" room where experts will be available to answer your obscure questions. Although our software and users have been around the block a few times, there is always something to be learned from the experts or other students.

Thursday and Friday mornings will be dedicated to our classic conference format with over a dozen sessions provided by experienced users and associate members. These will cover usage and enhancement of our beloved software and hardware. As homesteaders know, caring for aging legacy hardware requires special skills and resources, and we have some of the best experts sharing their knowledge. We'll also have some nitty-gritty presentations on migration to new systems, with all the details of how to select your next package or the mechanics of migrating your legacy data.

Last, but far from least, Thursday afternoon we will hear presentations from the big players in that "new systems" market. We are arranging for the software makers to show the bells and whistles of their products unrestricted by our customary Users-helping-Users motto. These presentations will be targeted toward users of our software so that we will understand the packages with respect to the manufacturing environment.

I believe there is something in this conference that will benefit any user of MANMAN or MK software. If you can't find something of benefit after you attend this conference then you should contact us to cancel your CAMUS membership and/or be removed from our mailing list.

Thank you,

Mike Anderson

CAMUS President and MANMAN user since 1984
